would it be possible for this taxation system to assist the process of improving the competitiveness of Indian industry.

Tax Evasion by HCL Group

77. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has recently conducted searches at the residences and official premises of HCL Group recently and recovered documents relating to tax evasion etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to check tax evasion by leading industries/business houses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The search was conducted on 24th January, 2002 and documents were seized. Investigation is in progress to determine the exact nature and amount of the tax evasion.

(c) Scrutiny of the returns of income, surveys and search and seizure actions are carried out by the Department to check tax evasion.

Bound Tariff Rates for Agricultural Commodities

78. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the bound rates of tariffs for agricultural commodities in the country as on 1st January, 2002 and up to what period India can continue with these bound rates;

(b) the current import duties on major agricultural products